

# Connecticut Commission on Women, Children *and* Seniors



# CWCS

**July, 2016**

## **New Commission begins operation**

**On July 1, 2016, the newly formed Commission on Women, Children and Seniors officially began operation. The CWCS was formed under P.A. 16-3, which last legislative session consolidated six legislative commissions into two. The CWCS will operate with an expanded mandate that includes key elements of those of the former Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), the Commission on Children (COC) and the Commission on Aging (COA).**

### **Mission Statement and Priorities**

*The Commission on Women, Children and Seniors (CWCS) is a non-partisan arm of the Connecticut General Assembly. As staff to the legislature, the CWCS researches best practices, coordinates stakeholders, and promotes public policies that are in the best interest of Connecticut's underserved and underrepresented women, children and older adults.*

*The agency recognizes that the experiences and needs of each population, while interconnected, are unique and may require individual public policy action. The individual legislative focus areas are listed below.*

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### **Legislative priorities concerning Women**

- Enhance women's economic security through leadership development and such family-friendly workplace policies as paid family leave and pay equity;
- Ensure wellness throughout the lifespan, including access to the full range of reproductive healthcare; and
- Eliminate gender-based discrimination in the workplace and in government.

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### **Legislative priorities concerning Children**

- Empower families and community leaders to be change agents on behalf of children;
- Remove the economic and academic obstacles that prevent children and their families from reaching their full potential; and

- Promote the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of children.

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## Legislative priorities concerning **Seniors**

- Promote economic security, choice and independence for older adults in both work and retirement;
- Support livable and accessible communities where older adults can retain their dignity and age in place; and
- Enhance the safety and wellbeing of seniors by preventing physical abuse and financial exploitation.

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## Commission on Women, Children and Seniors

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